



This is how it all started :

The wedding of

**Josephine Georgina Brice
and**

James Desmond Millar

on

2 September, 1939.

Setting the Scene :

Photographic record of the Millar Family of Beckenham, in several parts, Part One.

Old family photographs get lost and are not usually linked. With a trove of old photographs and a scanner it is hoped to throw some light on the various linkages and social mores of the depictants,

The story involves the Millar Family of 15 Downs Park East, Bristol, having their origins in working class Belfast presbyterianism. But when? I do not know. We were never told.

This family becomes connected to the Brice Family of 27 Woodstock Road, Bristol through marriage, both participants having met it is said through the study of pharmacy at Bristol University. But some early photographs suggest that Jo Brice and Des Millar met before their university days.

There was no mention of the Irish connection in our youth, presumably for social reasons, whilst my mother, Jo Brice, told of the Englishness of the Brices. The Millars seem to have been a social rung or two below that of the Brices who had, by the 1930s, become well to do from the entrepreneurial work of George Brice. Des Millar seems to have been the only Millar with a tertiary education whereas both Phyllis and Josephine did. Barbara learnt to fly with Amy Johnson, it is said. Hugh Millar was another entrepreneur but not on the scale of George Brice.

So photographs do not tell the whole story. I do like to tease out the social, socialising and genetic issues involved!

Dramatis Personae :

George William Galsworthy

father of

Eveline Beatrice Galsworthy who was married to George Herbert? Brice.

parents of

Phyllis, dob about 1896. No children. Unmarried. Music teacher.

Barbara dob about 1906. No Children. Said to have had 2 husbands concurrently in London during WWII. Both killed on active service. Married later in South Africa. Adventurer, traveller, Bon vivant.

Georgina dob 6.12.1916 who married James Desmond Millar dob 18.2.1914. Both pharmacists.

Their 5 children :

Anthony Bruce Millar dob 5.10.1941 Chartered accountant; Businessman.

Graham Hugh Millar dob 6.9.1945 Soldier; Land economist; Bibliophile, Philosopher.

Ian Desmond Millar dob 30.11.1948 Businessman.

Melanie Anne Millar dob March 1951 Household duties.

Malcolm James Millar dob 25. 2. 1957 Chartered banker, Businessman, Ultra marathoner.

Marion Millar

mother of

James Desmond Millar.

Hugh Millar

Pat Millar

Marjorie Millar and her husband Don McDonald.

Sue Millar [actually Eileen]

3 others.



27 Woodstock Road, Redland, Bristol; Google Street View 2023.

15 Downs Park East, Bristol; Google Street View, 2023.





**Wedding group photograph taken outside St. Mary
Redcliffe Church, Bristol on Saturday 2 September, 1939:**

**Back row : ?; ?;?; Hugh Millar [uncle and god father of
Graham Hugh Millar]; Barbara Brice.**

**Middle Row : Phyllis Brice, Mother of the Groom Marion
Millar, known in the family as 'Granny Millar'; James
Desmond Millar; Josephine Georgina Brice; Eveline Brice,
George Brice; ?**

**Somewhere in the photograph : Pam McDonald; Moira
Portsmouth [nee Sinclair]; May Millar?**

Mr. & Mrs. George H. Brice

request the pleasure of
the company of

at the marriage of their daughter

Josephine,

with

Mr. Desmond Millar,

at St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol,
on Wednesday, September 6th, 1939,

at 1 p.m.,

and afterwards at The Royal West of England Academy,
Queens Road, Clifton.

27 Woodstock Road,
Redland,
Bristol, G.

R.S.V.P.



Rear of post card with photograph :
George William Galsworthy
born 2 December [no year].
Father of Eveline Beatrice Galsworthy, thus
grandfather of Josephine Georgina Brice.

Copy of
This Indenture Witnesseth That *George William Galsworthy* Son of *Ann Galsworthy* of
Bristol Widow and with her Consent
Doth put him self Apprentice to ~~Robert Adams and Henry Adams~~ *Robert Adams and Henry Adams* of *Bristol* ~~aforesaid~~ *Corn and*
Provision Merchants
to learn ~~the~~ *him* Art, and with ~~them~~ *him* after the manner of an Apprentice to serve from the *Twentieth day of December* one thousand eight hundred and ~~sixty~~ *sixty five*
unto the full end and Term of *Five* Years thence next ensuing and fully to be complete and ended: During which term the said Apprentice *his* said
Masters faithfully shall and will serve ~~the~~ *his* Secrets keep, ~~the~~ *his* lawful Commandments every where gladly do; he shall do no Damage to
his said *Masters* nor see to be done of others; but to *his* Power shall tell or forthwith give Notice to *his* said *Masters*
of the same. The Goods of *his* said *Masters* he shall not waste nor lend them unlawfully to any; Hurt to *his* said *Masters*
he shall not do, cause or procure to be done; he shall neither buy nor sell without *his* *Masters* Leave. Taverns Inns or Ale-
houses he shall not haunt; at Cards, Dice Tables, or any other unlawful Game he shall not play
nor from the Service of *his* said *Masters* by Day ~~nor~~ Night shall absent *him* self; but in all things as an honest and faithful Apprentice shall and will
demean and behave *him* self towards *his* said *Masters* and all ~~the~~ *them* during all the said term.

AND the said ~~Robert Adams and Henry Adams~~ *Robert Adams and Henry Adams* in Consideration of the Services of the said *George William Galsworthy* and of
the sum of Ten pounds paid to ~~them~~ *him* with the said *George William Galsworthy* by the ~~Trustees~~ *Trustees* of *Colston's Hospital*

the said Apprentice in the Art of a *Corn Factor and Provision M:* which ~~he~~ *he* now use
shall teach and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed in the best way and manner ~~they~~ *he* can; finding and allowing unto the said Apprentice sufficient Meat, Drink,
~~Washing, Lodging and all other Necessaries during the said Term~~ *paying to the said George William Galsworthy by quarterly Instalments during the said*
Term for the first year Fifteen pounds, for the second year Twenty pounds, for the third year Twenty pounds, for the fourth year Thirty five pounds
and for the fifth year Fifty pounds

And for the true performance of all and every the Covenants and agreements aforesaid each of the same Parties bindeth ~~himself~~ *himself* unto the other firmly by
these Presents.

IN WITNESS whereof the Parties above named to these Indentures interchangeable
have set their Hands and Seals the Day of *December* in the *Twenty eighth* Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady *Victoria*
by the Grace of GOD of the United Kingdom of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, Queen, Defender of the Faith, and in the Year of our LORD One thousand eight
hundred and *sixty five*

TNESS } Sealed and delivered in the Presence of

S G
G M G
W. A.

Copy of Apprentice's Indenture for George William Galsworthy, son of Ann
Galsworthy dated 20 December 1865.

Corn Factor and Provision Merchant for the Trustees of Colston's Hospital.



Metal plate.

Undated. No details.

Handwritten note by GHM on the enveloped:
"George William Galsworthy (left)



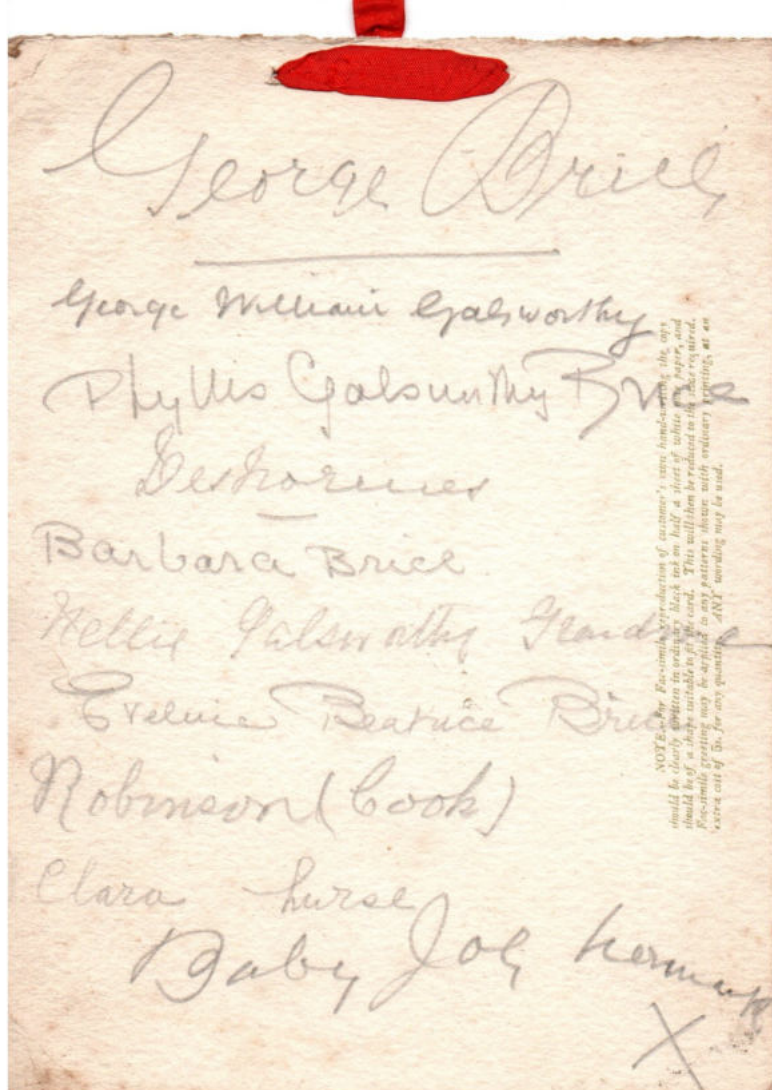
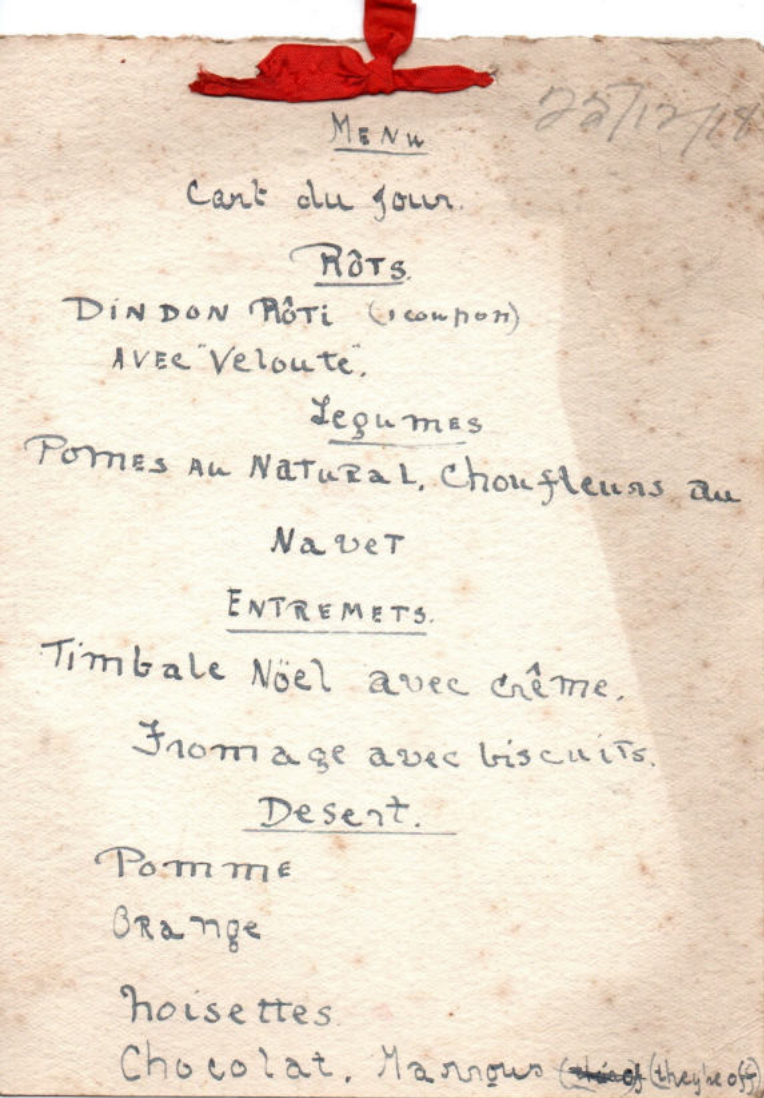
Rear of photograph :
21 Cotham Grove, Bristol : Home of
George and Nellie Galsworthy until
1932, sold for 850 pounds.



Edm. Grayson-Foster

Clifton

George William Galsworthy



Rear of handwritten menu dated 22 December 1918: signed: George Brice [Jo's father] George William Galsworthy [Jo's grandfather] Phyllis Galsworthy Brice [Jo's oldest sister], Barbara Brice [Jo's second oldest sister] Nellie Galsworthy Grandma, Eveline Beatrice Brice [Jo's mother], Robinson (cook) Clara Hurse?, Baby Jo.

I did not know my grandfather George Brice, I wish I had done, he sounds quite a character. I have no documentary record of him except for this relic and some photographs. What can I glean from these? Looking at the bold signature he seems to be a man with whom one should not trifle. He is shown wearing expensive clothing and having expensive housing. The gossip I had from my mother, Josephine Georgina Brice, was that he was a wealthy self made man although the source of that wealth was not spoken about. It was said he had a connection with Libby's Milk of Carnation fame and interests in South Africa with or as a result of his connection to the Union Castle Shipping Line. Perhaps he was also something of a philanderer in that Jo told me that in the seaside town of Dawlish there were two hotels close to the railway line and sea in which he had installed two of his girl friends as managers. He left substantial amounts to his three daughters.

The entrepreneurial spirit or gene is alive and well in his grandchildren; Anthony, Ian and Malcolm all inherited the money making gene to a greater or lesser extent. The gene bypassed me so I had to make do with being a philosopher! GHM.



Marion Millar,
mother of
James Desmond Millar,
otherwise known as
Granny Millar.

Undated

Marion Millar had, I was told, 8 children; I only knew 4 and in no particular order they were: Auntie Sue [actual name was Eileen, lived in Bristol, a spinster], Auntie Marjorie [the wife of Don McDonald and lived in the family home at 15 Downs Park East; Uncle Pat [who lived in Guildford and with whom there was limited contact, no children as far as I can remember, he was a bicycle and would perhaps once a year cycle from Guildford to visit us in Beckenham unannounced], Uncle Hugh was married to Madeleine, 2 daughters, confusingly Marion and Denise who married Gordon Pearce and lived in Chiswick, he was a cello player, they had two children, the name of the boy was Nicholas. Hugh was a successful merchant in the jewellery business, he took on partners and became Millar, Stone and Jonas. Hugh and Madeleine initially lived in a detached house further up Downs Park East, perhaps number 63 but in his wealthy, later years lived in an apartment in a converted Victorian house on Clifton Down. Hugh was my godfather and religiously remembered my birthday and Christmas but never actually mentioned religion, or any thing much else as I recall. He employed his brother in law Don McDonald, the husband of the mentioned Marjorie. On the only occasion when I had dinner with both of them did it become apparent that there was no love lost between them.

Of Marion Millar's other 4 children, I recall nothing other than one brother and one sister married Sinclair siblings. GHM.



Fred Marsh FRAS
Hilton

Josephine Brice.



Inscription :

1918 : Josephine Brice age 2 years.

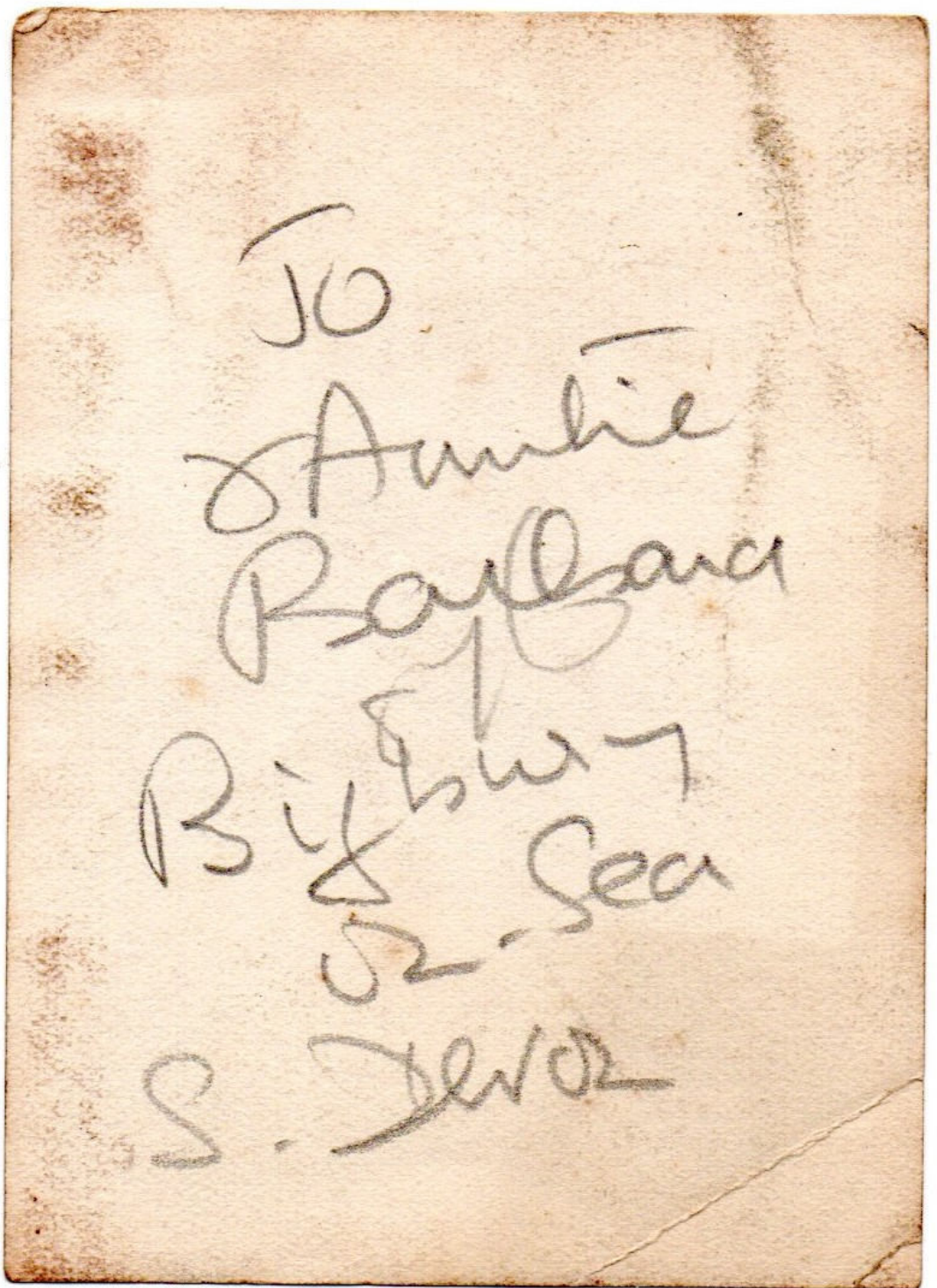


With love from
P. L. M. and
Barbara
Xmas 1914

CORRESPONDENCE

POST CARD

ADDRESS



Barbara Brice and Josephine Georgina Brice.

Undated but seemingly early 1920s



Joe
Lake Anna
1925

Josephine Georgina Brice, aged 9.

Josephine Brice ; undated



POST CARD

CARTE POSTALE

Communication—Correspondance

Address—Adresse





To Age 16
16 20
Taken by
Des.

Communication—Correspondance

Address—Adresse

POST CARD
CARTE POSTALE



In Jo's handwriting.

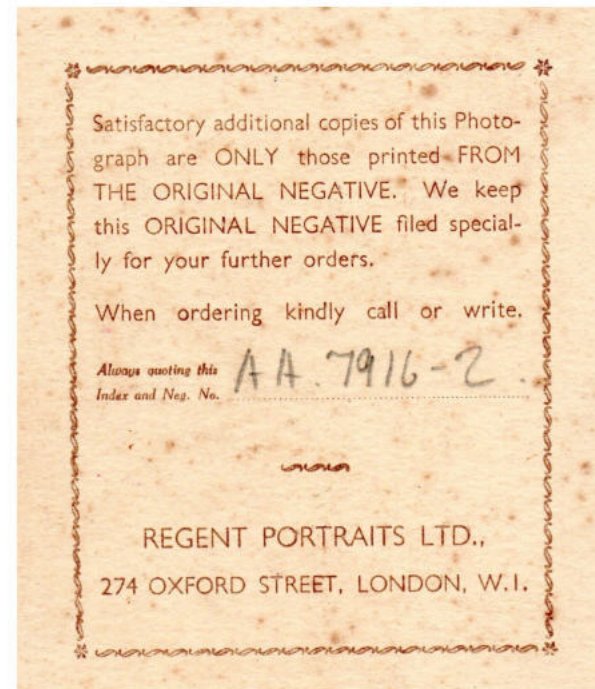


Clifton Suspension
Bridge.

Waltrant, Jo, Irene

Mar: 25th 1933.

Happy memories.



Josephine Brice;
undated.



James Desmond Millar
and
Josephine Georgina Brice

undated



James Desmond Millar
aged 20 years
1934

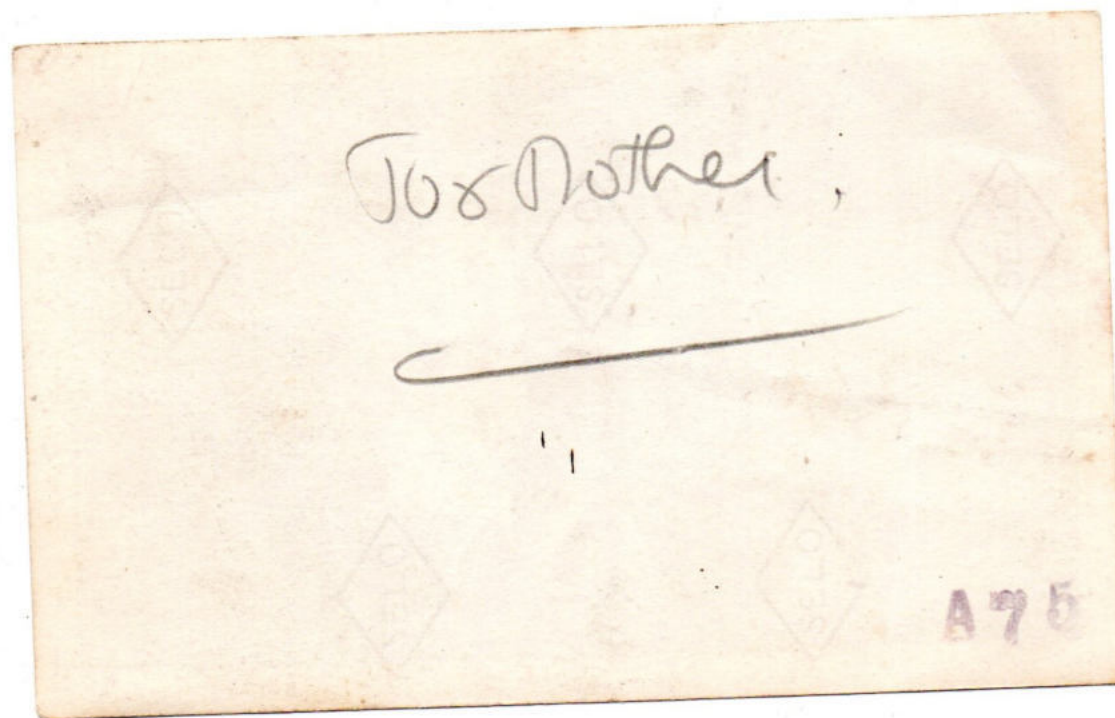


Aged 16

Josephine Georgina Brice.



At home at
27 Woodstock
Road, Bristol.

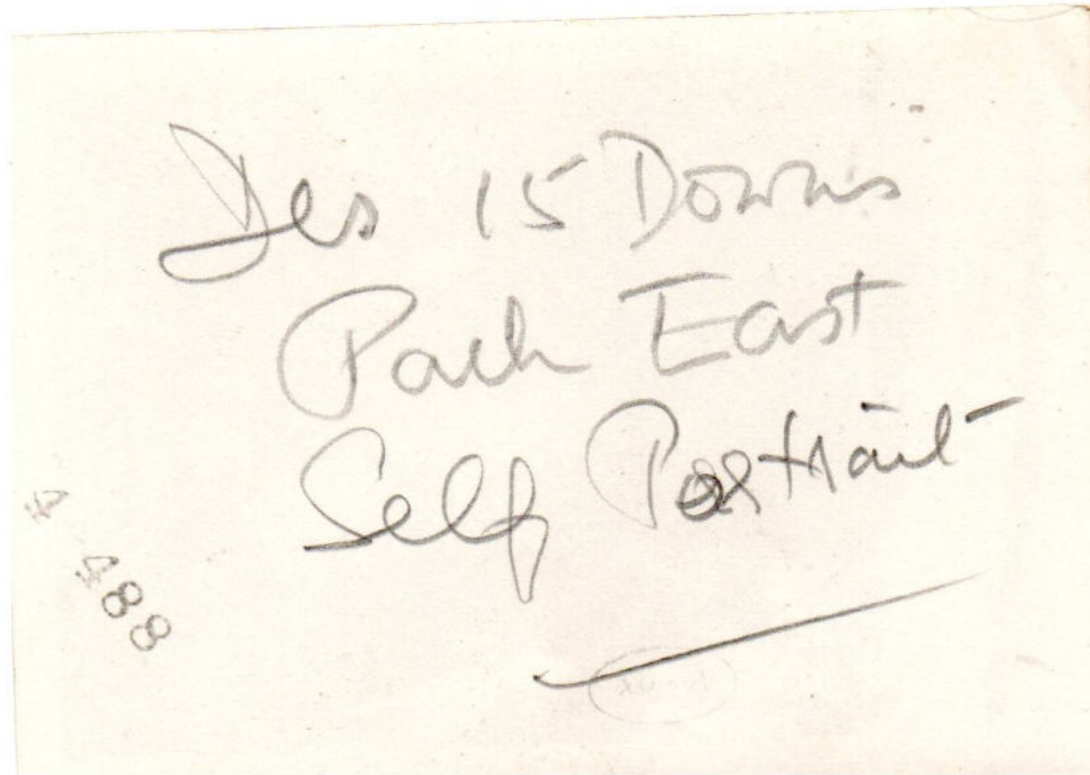


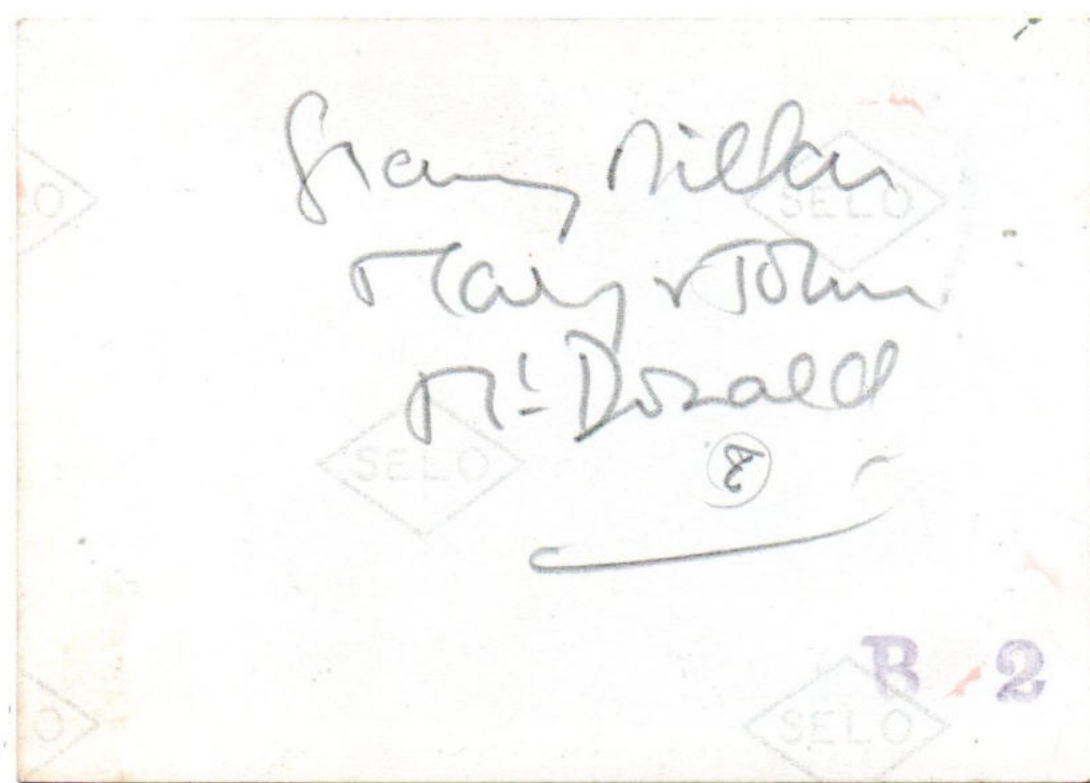
Eveline Galsworthy Brice and her daughter Josephine Georgina Brice.

Undated but seemingly 1930s.



James Desmond Millar. Undated





Inscription in the handwriting of James Desmond Millar whilst that on reverse in the handwriting of Josephine Georgina Brice.

Mother is Marion Millar and Mary and John McDonald, her grandchild through her daughter, Marjorie, who had married Don McDonald and they lived in the family home at 15 Downs Park East, Bristol.

Mary McDonald married Alan Edwards and they lived in Newport, South

John McDonald worked for Fry's Chocolate and rode motor bikes.

Undated.



George and Eveline Brice;
parents of Phyllis, Barbara and Josephine Brice.

No sign of the rest of the photograph but the plus fours and dapper waistcoat tell a social story. Undated but seemingly late 1930s.



Gram Millar
 (Uncle Thomas
 Mother)
 Brian McDonald
 John McDonald

Marion Millar, mother of Sue [aka Eileen], Pat, Hugh, Desmond,
 Marjorie and 3 others. Marjorie was married to Don McDonald, thus
 his mother Mrs. McDonald in this photograph. I did not meet her. John
 McDonald is Marjorie and Don's son. Not sure how Brian McDonald
 fits into the picture. Late 1930s. GHM.



Des - ^{Velox} James
 Brice &
 Galsworthy
 (^{Velox} Eveline Beatrice
 Galsworthy)

George Brice and Eveline Beatrice Brice, nee Galsworthy, parents in law of James Desmond Millar.



Josephine Georgina Brice and her father George Brice, 1941.





Beppa - Mrs -
 Grandpa Brice
 " " " "
 Aunt Phyllis
 Aunt & Graham.

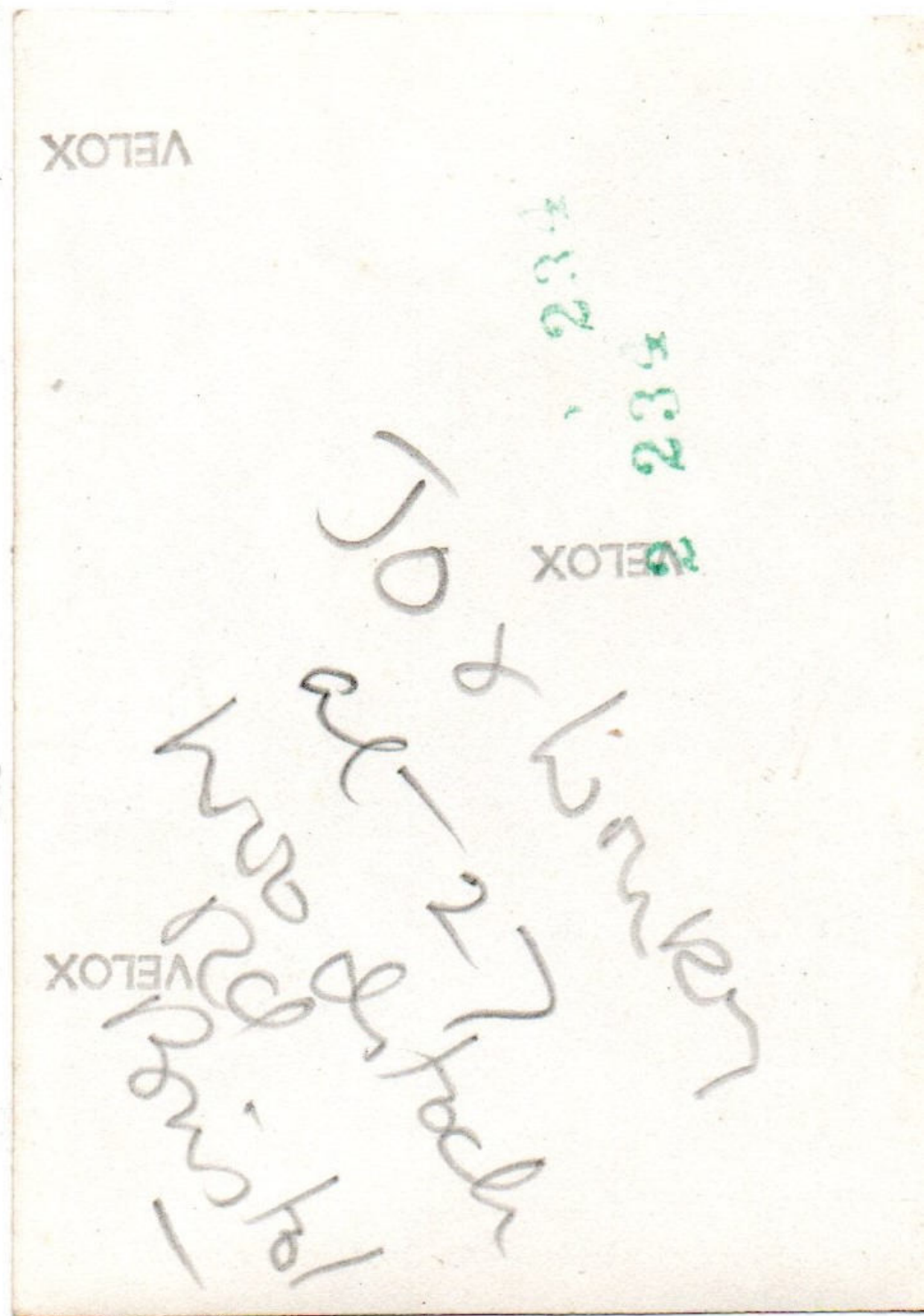
Standing L to R : Beppa, French companion of Phyllis; James Desmond Millar; George Brice.

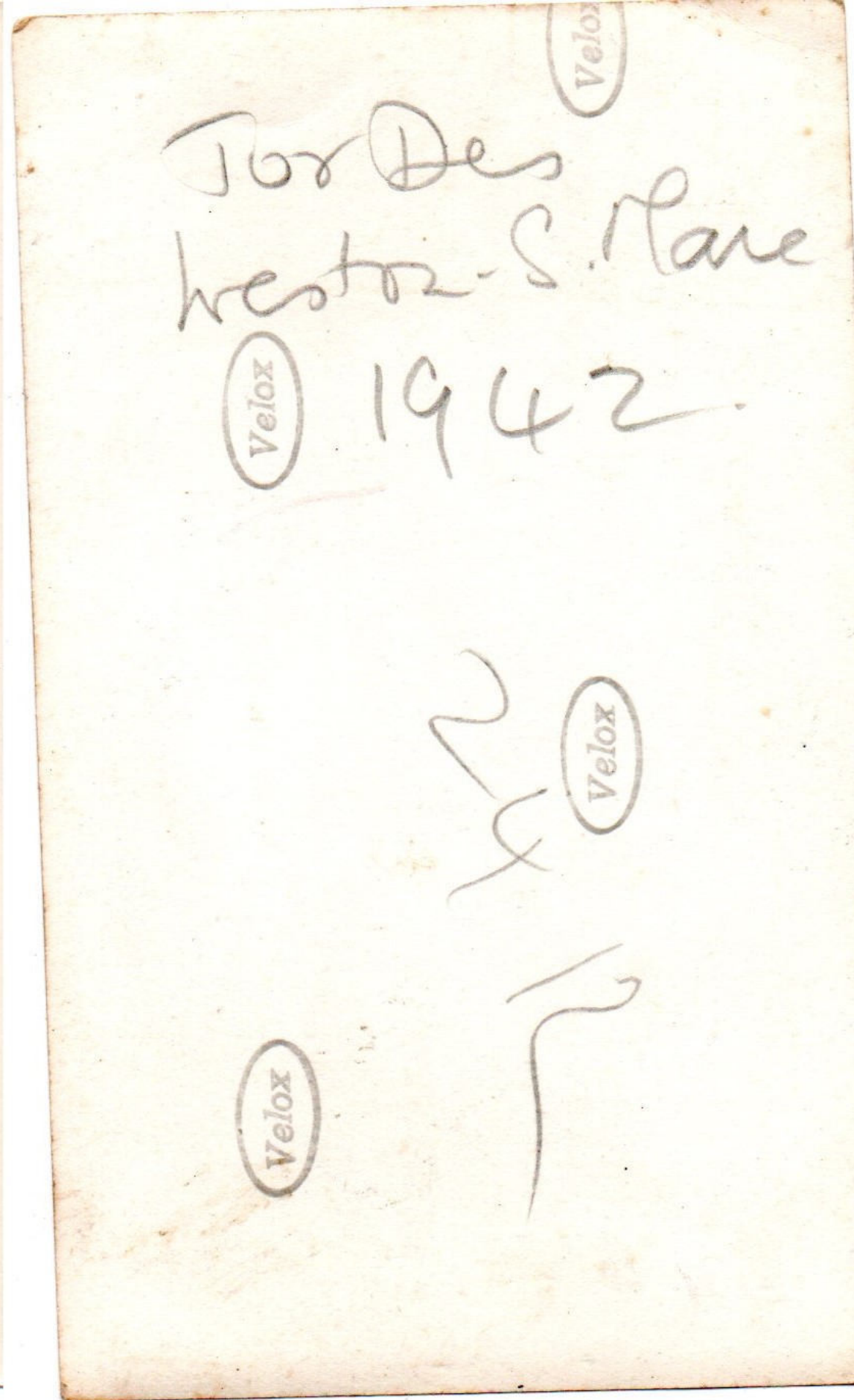
Seated : Eveline Brice; her daughter Phyllis Brice, her grandson Anthony Bruce Millar.

Baby: Graham Hugh Millar.



Wonkey, the much loved spaniel.





Josephine Georgina Brice and James Desmond Millar : both smoking.

*Mr. and Mrs. Desmond Millar
request the pleasure of*

*company at the Christening of their infant Son
Anthony Bruce
at St. Mary's Church, Shortlands,
on Saturday, January 10th, at 3.30 p.m.*

*And afterwards at
90, Wickham Road,
Beckenham.*

1942

R.S.V.P.

And there was issue : Anthony Bruce Millar, born 5 October 1941.

The return address was the shop that Des leased for his dispensing chemist business from 1939 for a 7 year term. Each time the lease was re-newed there was high dudgeon in the household because of the rent increases. Jo and Des lived above the shop until they purchased a detached 4 bedroom house at 36 Elwill Way, Beckenham. Actually "they" is a misnomer as it was Jo's money from her parental inheritance. 1945.

St. Marys Church from Google Streetview in 2023 and as I remember it from the 1950s. GHM.



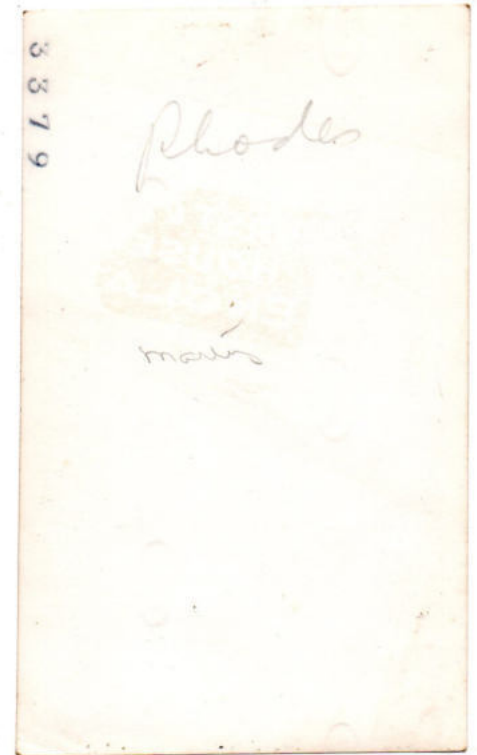
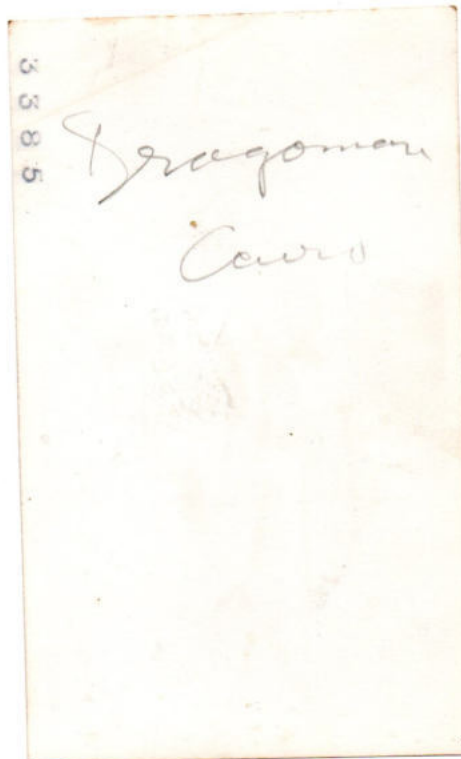
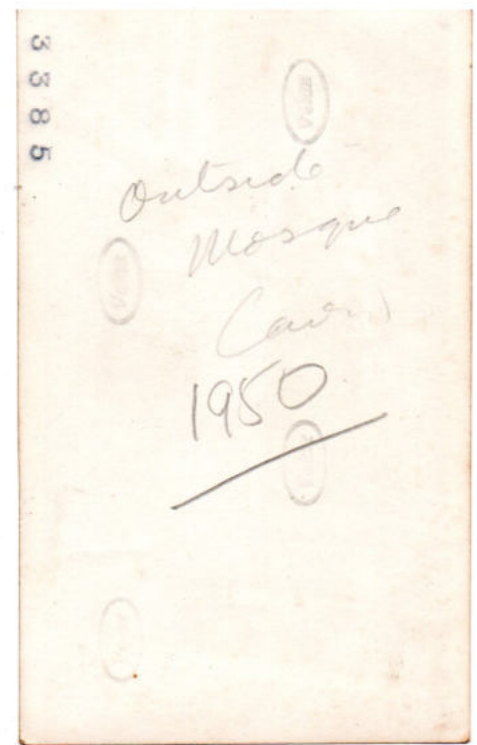
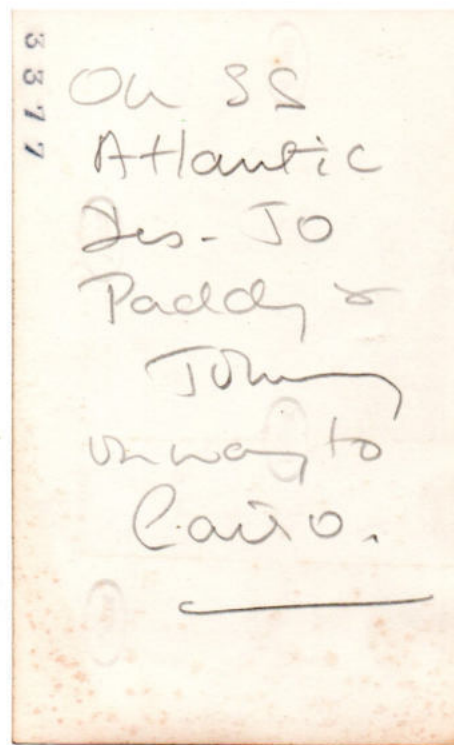


Frederick Hall
[Signature]

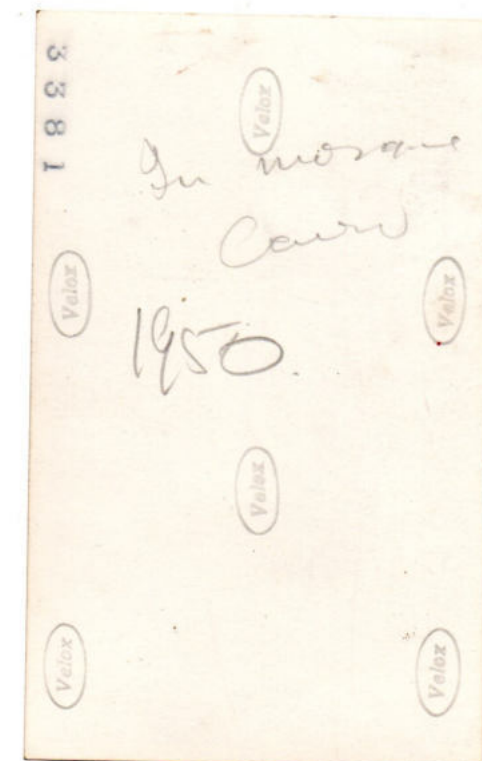
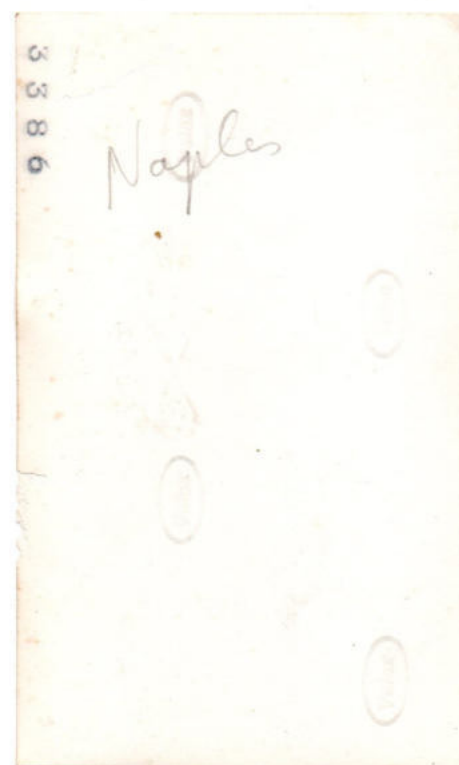
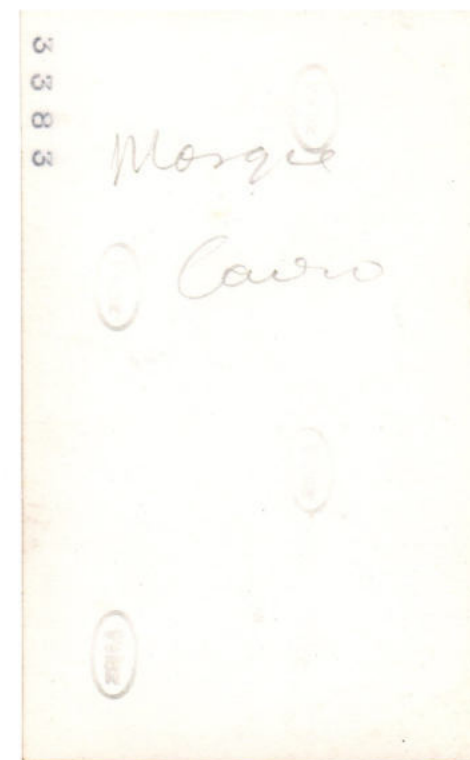
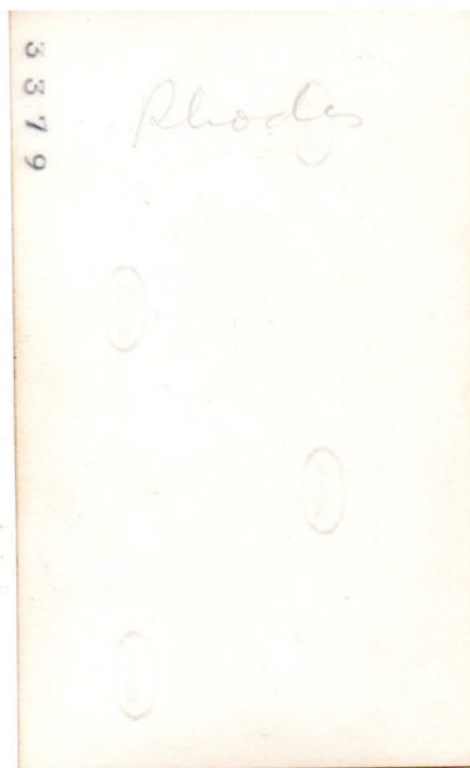
Studio Portrait of Anthony Bruce Millar dob 5.10.1941 and Graham Hugh Millar, dob 6.9.1945. first two children of Josephine Georgina Brice and James Desmond Millar dated 1946.

Anthony & Graham
1946

83137B.

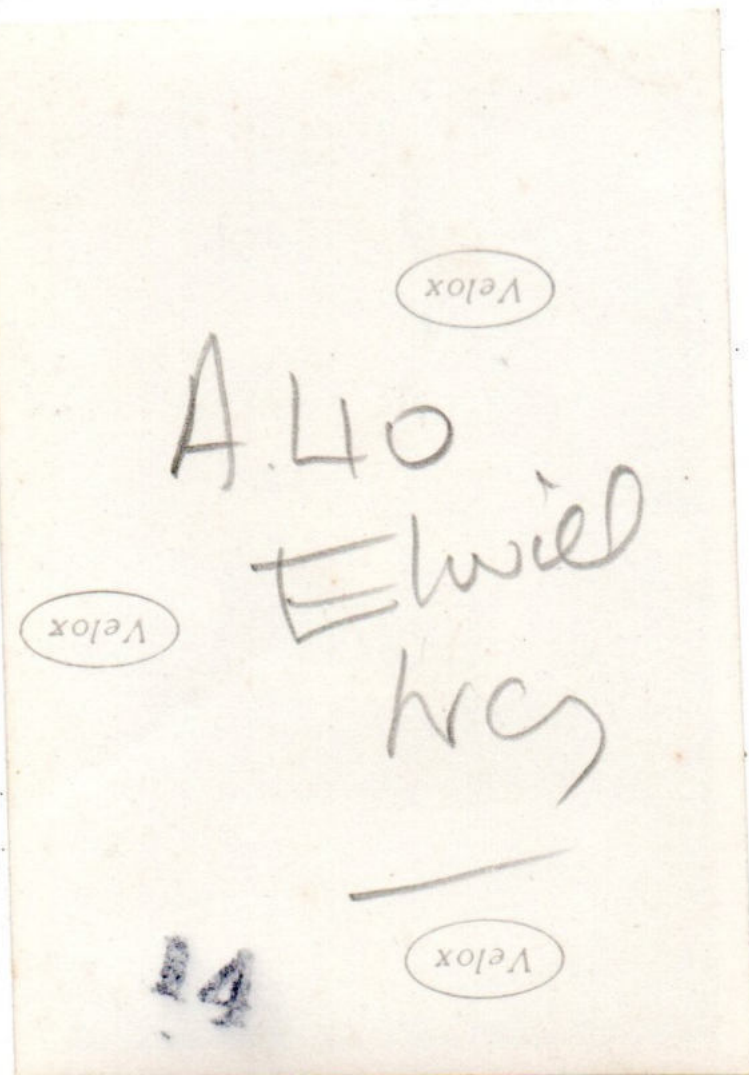


A trip on the S.S. Atlantic to Cairo : James Desmond Millar and Josephine Georgina Brice with friends Paddy and Johnny Wilding, the later was Ian Desmond Millar's godfather. 1950.



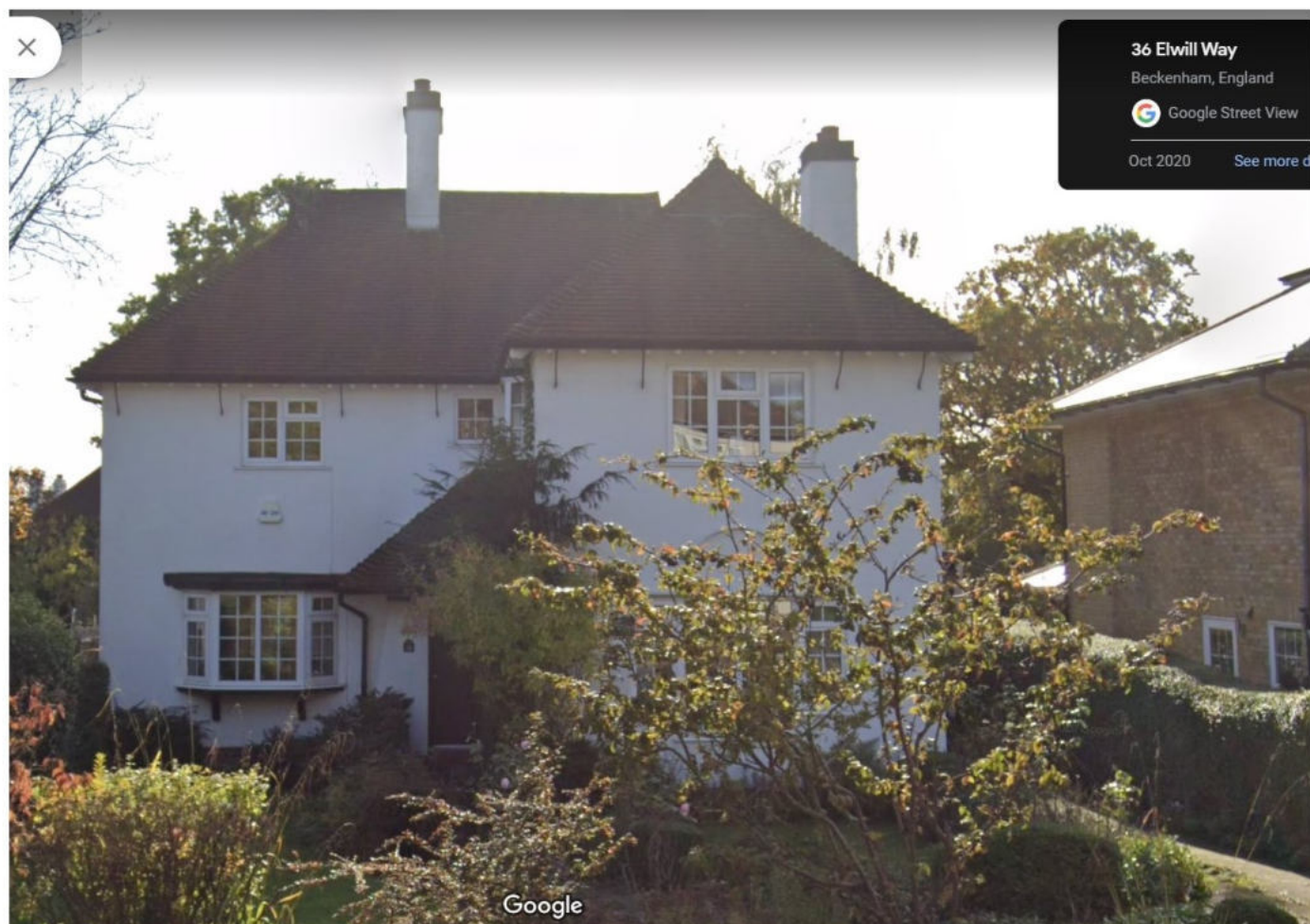
Cairo Trip : Also visiting Rhodes and Naples. the names of the two women with Des in the bottom left photograph are lost to history.

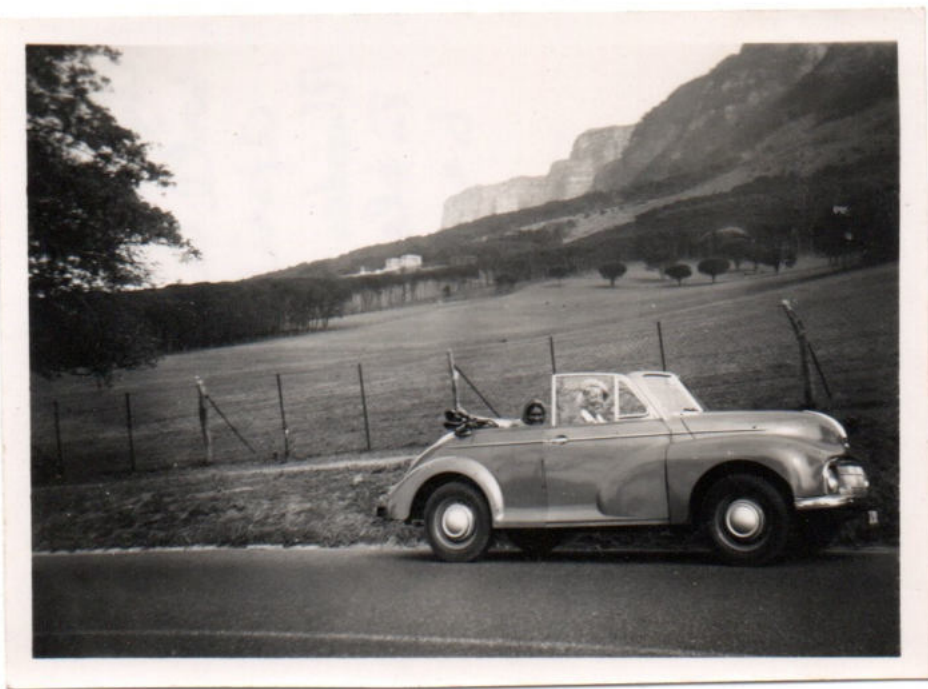
Little could one have imagined that Philippa Chaffey-Millar and Graham Hugh Millar would be living in Cairo only 28 years later. GHM.



The family car an Austin A40 in the driveway of the then family home of Josephine Georgina Brice and James Desmond Millar at 36 Elwill Way, Beckenham, Kent; about 1950.

A Google Streetview picture of that house in 2023.



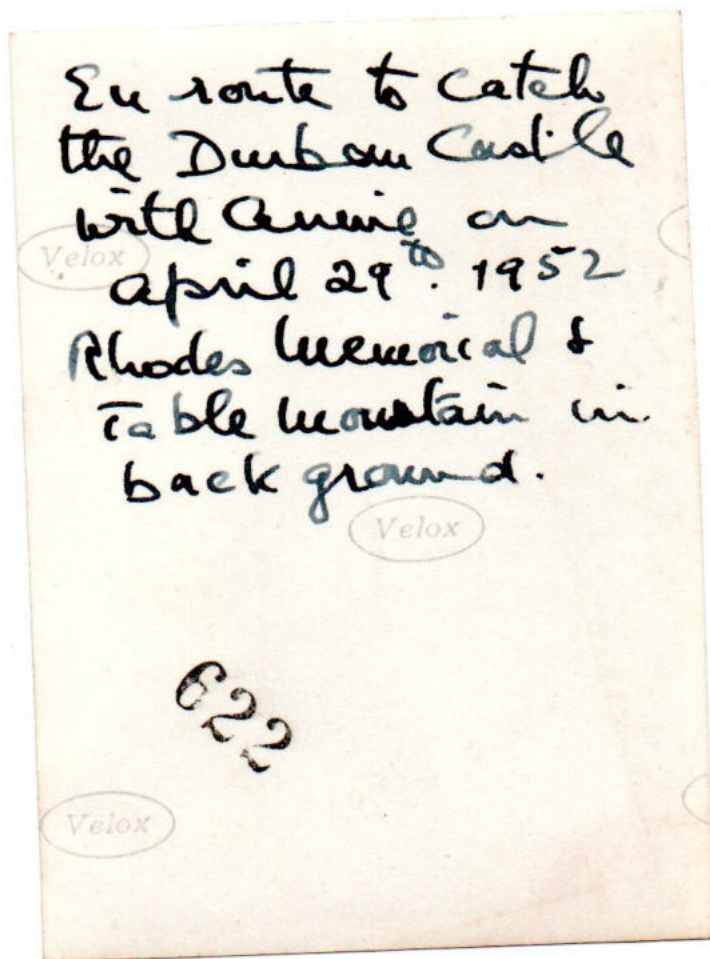


Inscription reads : "En route to catch the Durban Castle with Annie on April 29, 1952. Rhodes Memorial and Table Mountain in background."

Handwriting of Barbara Brice showing her Morris Minor with Annie in the back.

The story of Annie became a family sage. Barbara in South Africa and Jo in England somehow decided that bringing an untrained girl to Beckenham to work as a domestic would be a workable proposition. Not thought through perhaps that Annie would then be completely isolated in a strange environment without any real support. Annie was about 25. The project failed after some months and she returned to South Africa.

Thank goodness that people write inscriptions on the back of photographs otherwise this little story would be lost.

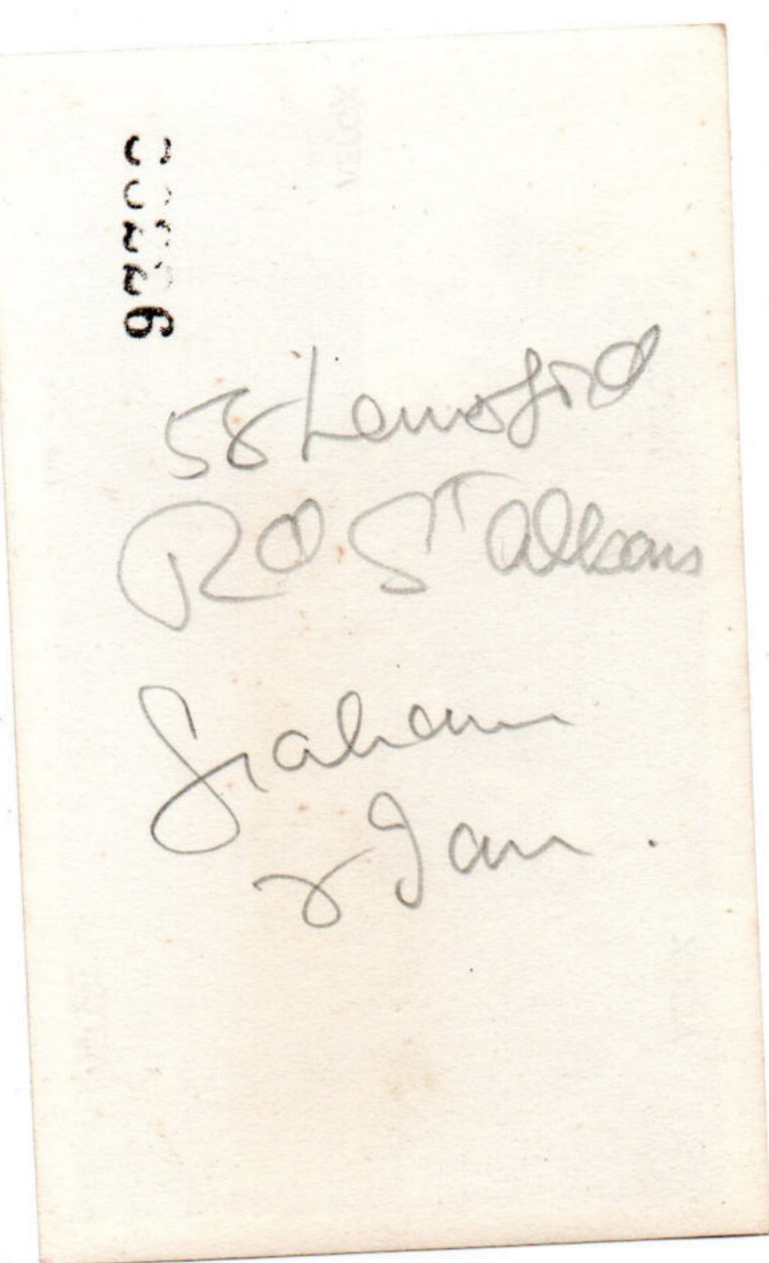


A Google Streetview picture of an approximately similar shot in 2023

Durban Castle - Art Gallery



Durban Castle in Galleons Reach
By Robert Lloyd



Josephine Georgina Brice's handwritten note on the rear of the photograph identifying two of her sons : Graham Hugh Millar, dob 6.9.1945 and Ian Desmond Millar, dob 30.11.1948

58 Lemsford Road, St. Albans was the home of her sister Phyllis Galsworthy Brice and her French companion, Beppa. What the actual relationship was between Phyllis and Beppa was never discussed but it is marvellous to be able to speculate. Phyllis was a music teacher.

The hallway of this house boasted 3 or 4 excellent family portraits which found their way to a house in Lower Bourne owned by another son Anthony Bruce Millar, a worthy home for such portraits.

Undated but appears to be about 1950 based on the age of the 2 boys.



Sales photograph from the Internet, 2023.